

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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OMB-01 AID-20 SWF-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 041515Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1294

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU EEC PO

SUBJ: OAU THINKING ON EEC ROLE IN PORTUGUESE DECOLONIALISM

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3237

SUMMARY: PORTUGAL, ALREADY ON ROAD TOWARD ECONOMIC
INTEGRATION IN EUROPE, IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ITS AFRICAN
POLICIES AS QUID PRO QUO FOR OFFERS OF CLOSER INTEGRATION
IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, ENCOURAGEMENT OF CLOSER PORTUGUESE
TIES TO EUROPE, WITHOUT POLITICAL STRINGS, WOULD BE
BEST WAY IN LONG RUN TO FOSTER CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH
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GOP WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO DISENGAGE FROM AFRICA. END

SUMMARY.

1. THOSE WHO BELIEVE OFFERS OF FULLER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH EUROPE WILL ENTICE PORTUGAL TO CHANGE ITS AFRICAN POLICIES ARE ENGAGED IN WISHFUL THINKING. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT STEPS TOWARD INTEGRATING PORTUGAL ECONOMICALLY WITHOUT DEMANDING A POLITICAL "QUID". GREATER INTEGRATION-WITH POLITICAL STRINGS-IS UNLIKELY TO BE SUFFICIENTLY APPEALING TO PORTUGAL.

2. PORTUGAL'S MAIN ECONOMIC OBJECTIVE IN EUROPE IS TO FOSTER EXPORTS AND PROTECT DOMESTIC INDUSTRY AGAINST IMPORTS. FOR THE TIME BEING THIS DUAL OBJECTIVE IS BEING LARGELY ACHIEVED THROUGH PORTUGAL'S INDUSTRIAL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT WITHIN THE ENLARGED EEC AND ITS MEMBERSHIP IN "MINI-EFTA". IT IS TRUE THAT PORTUGAL WOULD LIKE FREER ACCESS TO EUROPEAN MARKETS FOR ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (E.G., TABLE WINES) AND A GREATER SAY IN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC POLICY DECISIONS, BUT THIS CONCERN IS NOT SO INTENSE THAT THE GOP WOULD BE WILLING TO BARGAIN ITS AFRICAN POLICIES.

3. AS MATTERS STAND TODAY A EUROPEAN THREAT TO ANNUL AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN FORCE WOULD PROBABLY CARRY MORE WEIGHT THAN AN OFFER OF MORE INTEGRATION. IN ANY EVENT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER APPROACH WOULD PRODUCE A CHANGE IN AFRICAN POLICY. THEY WOULD ONLY GET PORTUGUESE RIGHTISTS' BACKS UP, AND UNDERMINE THOSE HERE WHO LOOK TO A FUTURE MORE CLOSELY TIED TO EUROPE AND WHO ARE QUIETLY PURSUING THAT OBJECTIVE. WE AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES WOULD THEREFORE BE BETTER ADVISED TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC INVOLVEMENT WITH EUROPE, BUT WITHOUT SEEKING AN AFRICAN "QUID". WHILE SUCH A POLICY WILL NOT HELP MUCH IN BRINGING EARLY CHANGES IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN POSITION, IT WILL IN THE LONG RUN HELP CREATE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE GOP WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO DISENGAGE FROM ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

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